Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Sunday 03 Mar 2024 until 23:59 on Monday 04 Mar 2024

Forecast Issued on Saturday 02 Mar 2024 at 11:00

Confidence: High for generally fair Sunday, also for occasionally unsettled from Monday, but lowering for timing detail of worst of later weather.

Headline for Sunday 03 Mar 2024: Mainly dry Sunday with brighter spells increasing. Winds easing relatively light from mid-day. Freezing level around 600m.

Mountain weather hazards on Sunday 03 Mar 2024

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Light snow	Dull	Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
80%	50%	20%	20%	<05%	<05%	10%	<05%

Forecast for Sunday 03 Mar 2024

Weather: Showers merging to longer periods of snow, rain below 300-400m, during the early hours, before dwindling towards dawn. A largely dry by day with bright and sunny spells increasing from late morning, but a few isolated showers will crop up across the area.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 30% becoming 80-90% from mid-day.

Low cloud and visibility: Good or very good becoming moderate or poor in rain showers, very poor in snow showers and within cloud with bases quite widespread from 800m early morning, infrequently so from mid-day.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Sunday 03 Mar 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	19/23 SE	21/26 S	20/25 S	16/20 S	13/18 S	11/16 S	10/13 S	12/16 SE	13/17 SE
600	14/20 SE	18/25 S	18/24 S	13/18 S	13/18 S	11/16 S	9/13 S	11/16 SE	11/16 SE
300	6/16 SE	8/20 S	7/18 S	6/15 S	7/15 S	6/13 S	4/9 S	4/11 SE	4/12 SE
Valley	6/14 SE	7/17 S	7/17 S	6/13 S	8/14 S	7/12 SW	3/8 S	4/11 SE	4/11 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-10	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-8	-2/-7	-1/-6	-2/-6	-2/-8	-2/-8
600	-1/-6	-1/-7	-0/-6	-0/-5	1/-4	1/-3	0/-4	-0/-5	-0/-5
300	1/-2	1/-2	1/-2	2/-1	3/0	4/1	2/-0	1/-1	1/-2
Valley	3/0	3/0	4/1	4/2	6/3	6/4	5/3	4/2	3/2
Freezing Level*	500m	600m	600m	600m	600m	600m	600m	600m	600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Severe wind chill diminishing into the afternoon.

Forecast for Monday 04 Mar 2024

Weather: Early frost around the foothills. Dry and bright morning. Cloud then eventually rain and summit snow feeding from the southwest through the afternoon and evening.

Maximum wind: Southeast increasing gradually to mean 20-25mph by late afternoon, with gusts reaching 35mph across most exposed ridges and summits during the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 80% lowering 60% late afternoon, 10-20% late evening

Low cloud and visibility: Good or very good becoming moderate or poor in rain, very poor in snow and within cloud with bases occasionally lowering 800m during the morning, becoming widespread by evening.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Minus 4 Celsius increasing 10 Celsius during afternoon
At 800m: Minus 2 Celsius increasing Zero Celsius
Freezing level: 600m lifting 800m

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Saturday 2 March 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:30 Full report: The forecast overnight snow has transformed the Lake District mountains but caught out many unprepared weekend walkers. Anecdotally the north of the National Park received more snow but generally the snow cover was boot deep with drifts to knee deep and had settled down to around 300m. There was some snow movement and drifting on fresh NE winds and small areas of soft windslab have formed in sheltered locations and around features on various aspects. The snow was soft, damp and slippery giving tricky conditions underfoot especially at lower levels where a slow thaw was taking place. Areas where the snow had been compacted beneath walkers feet were particularly hazardous and crampons and microspikes were very useful on even the easiest of paths and essential on the Helvellyn Edges. A bright morning quickly clouded over with additional heavy snow in the afternoon giving rise to white out conditions on the summits in which the ability to navigate in very limited visibility was critical to safe travel. Many landmarks, paths and large drops are now obscured by snow & low cloud, footsteps can quickly drift in and may not follow the line of a summer path and the people in front of you may also be lost! Fortunately plenty of teams were making the sensible decision to turn back when conditions became too challenging for their skills and equipment. Forecast sub-zero temperatures overnight will quickly freeze the damp snow creating challenging and more serious conditions on Sunday with hard snow and ice underfoot. Crampons, microspikes and an ice axe will be essential for anyone attempting the Helvellyn Edges or any other exposed ground where the consequences of a slip could be very serious. Full winter clothing including boots with good grip, waterproof top and bottoms, warm layers and hats and gloves are currently essential to safely explore the Lake District fells. Checking the weather forecast and carrying and knowing how & when to use a map, compass, headtorch, orange plastic survival bag and goggles is also critical. Temperature: minus 2.1 C, Maximum wind speed 19.9 mph, Wind chill: minus 10.7 C, Average wind speed: 10.0 mph

Issued at: 1100 on Sat 02 Mar 2024

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